

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[c01] (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a chain dangling from a means for supporting the apparatus; and

a generally hook-shaped saddle for supporting a communications cable thereacross, the saddle comprising a crown, a stem downwardly extending from the crown, and a generally semi-circular section outwardly extending from the stem and forming the saddle;

the crown including an open-ended slot for sliding onto a link of the chain and a chain hook outwardly extending from the crown, the chain hook having an outer tip sized to insert into and through an opening in another link of the chain, the chain hook for looping excess chain that dangles below the crown,

wherein the crown can be positioned along the chain, thus varying the height of the saddle along the chain and helping maintain a desired routing of the communication cable.

[c02] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second generally hook-shaped saddle downwardly extending from the crown, the second generally hook-shaped saddle for supporting additional communications cable thereacross.

[c03] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generally hook-shaped saddle includes a flange at an outer edge thereof, the flange stiffening the generally hook-shaped saddle.

[c04] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saddle includes a gate hinged to an outer tip thereof, the gate providing access to the semi-circular section so that the communication cable may be securely inserted therethrough.

- [c05] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the open-ended slot inwardly extends from an outer edge of the crown.
- [c06] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the crown comprises a downwardly extending skirt.
- [c07] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saddle includes a notch, the notch inwardly extending from an outer edge of the saddle, the notch for locating a tie that secures the communications cable within the saddle.
- [c08] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saddle includes a pair of notches, a first notch inwardly extending from an outer edge of the saddle, a second notch inwardly extending from an opposite outer edge of the saddle, the pair of notches for locating a tie that secures the communications cable within the saddle.
- [c09] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saddle includes a hook, the hook outwardly extending from an outer edge of the saddle, the hook for locating a tie that secures the communications cable within the saddle.
- [c10] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the saddle includes a pair of hooks, a first hook outwardly extending from an outer edge of the saddle, a second hook outwardly extending from an opposite outer edge of the saddle, the pair of hooks for locating a tie that secures the communications cable within the saddle.
- [c11] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for supporting the apparatus comprises a threaded member for threading into a supporting surface.
- [c12] (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for supporting the apparatus comprises an "S"-shaped member for hooking onto a supporting surface.

[c13] (Cancel)

[c14] (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a chain dangling from a means for supporting the apparatus; and

a generally hook-shaped saddle for supporting a communications cable thereacross, the saddle comprising a crown, a stem downwardly extending from the crown, and a generally semi-circular section outwardly extending from the stem and forming the saddle;

the crown including an open-ended slot for sliding onto a link of the chain and a downwardly extending skirt,

wherein the crown can be positioned along the chain, thus varying the height of the saddle along the chain and helping maintain a desired routing of the communication cable.

[c15] (New) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a second generally hook-shaped saddle downwardly extending from the crown, the second generally hook-shaped saddle for supporting additional communications cable thereacross.

[c16] (New) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the open-ended slot inwardly extends from an outer edge of the crown.

[c17] (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a chain dangling from a means for supporting the apparatus; and

a generally hook-shaped saddle for supporting a communications cable thereacross, the saddle comprising a crown, a stem downwardly extending from the crown, a generally semi-circular section outwardly extending from the stem and forming

the saddle, and a notch, the notch inwardly extending from an outer edge of the saddle, the notch for locating a tie that secures the communications cable within the saddle;

the crown including an open-ended slot for sliding onto a link of the chain,

wherein the crown can be positioned along the chain, thus varying the height of the saddle along the chain and helping maintain a desired routing of the communication cable.

- [c18]** (New) An apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a second generally hook-shaped saddle downwardly extending from the crown, the second generally hook-shaped saddle for supporting additional communications cable thereacross.
- [c19]** (New) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the open-ended slot inwardly extends from an outer edge of the crown.
- [c20]** (New) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the saddle includes a notch, the notch inwardly extending from an outer edge of the saddle, the notch for locating a tie that secures the communications cable within the saddle.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended version.

[0009] These and other features, aspects, and advantages of this invention are better understood when the following Detailed Description of the Invention is read with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic illustrating an operating environment for the embodiments of this invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded isometric view of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1, according to the embodiments of this invention;

FIG. 3 is a partial, isometric view of a saddle according to the embodiments of this invention;

FIG. 4 is a partial, isometric view of a crown according to the embodiments of this invention; and

FIGS. 5A and 5B are schematics ~~is a schematic~~ illustrating various means for supporting the apparatus.

Please also replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended version.

[0013] FIG. 2 is an exploded isometric view of the apparatus 10 for routing the communications cable 12. The apparatus 10 has a generally hook-shaped saddle 16 that slides onto a link 18 of a chain 20. The chain 20 dangles from a means for supporting the apparatus 10. The communications cable 12 lays within and across the saddle 16. FIG. 2 also shows a second generally hook-shaped saddle 22 that also supports additional communications cables 24 routed through the crawlspace (shown as reference numeral 14 in FIG. 1). The saddles 16 and 22 downwardly extend from a crown 26. The first saddle 16 has a stem 28 downwardly extending from the crown 26. A generally semi-circular section 30 outwardly extends from the stem 28 and forms the first saddle 16. The second saddle 22, likewise, also

includes a stem 32 downwardly extending from the crown 26. A generally semi-circular section 34 outwardly extends from the stem 32 and forms the second saddle 22. The crown 26 includes a slot 36 with an open end 38. The open end 38 of the slot 36 slides in between the adjoining links ~~18 and 38~~ of the chain 20. Because the crown 26 slides onto the chain 20, the crown 26 can be positioned at any link of the chain 20. The crown 26 thus varies the height of the saddles 16 and 22 along the chain 20 and help maintain a desired routing of the communications cables 12 and 24.